

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph [0026] with the following amended paragraph:

[0026] LLDPE (Linear low density polyethylene) ~~are copolymers~~ is a copolymer of ethylene and one or more alpha olefins, wherein the alpha olefins typically ~~having~~ have 3 to 20, preferably 3 to 10 carbon atoms, e.g. 1-butene, 1-pentene, 1-hexene and/or 1-octene, and the LLDPE has ~~with~~ a density of about 0.915 to 0.940 g/ml. The molecular structure of conventional LLDPE is characterized by a linear polymer backbone with little or no long chain branching but with some short chain branching. Metallocene LLDPE products are included by the term in the present invention.

Please replace paragraph [0027] with the following amended paragraph:

[0027] VLDPE (Very low density polyethylene) is a copolymer of ethylene and one or more alpha olefins, wherein the alpha olefins typically ~~having~~ have 3 to 20, preferably 3 - 10 carbon atoms, e.g. 1-butene, 1-pentene, 1-hexene and/or 1-octene, and the VLDPE has ~~with~~ a density of about 0.915 g/ml. For VLDPEs with a density less than about 0.905, the term ULDPE (Ultra low density polyethylene) is also used.

Please replace paragraph [0028] with the following amended paragraph:

[0028] By plastomers we specify ethylene and alpha olefin copolymers, wherein the alpha olefins typically ~~having~~ have 3 to 20, preferably 3 - 10 carbon atoms, e.g. 1-butene, 1-pentene, 1-hexene and/or 1-octene, ~~with~~ . The plastomers have a density less than 0.915 g/ml and typically more than 0.860 g/ml, and preferably are produced by a special metallocene or single site catalyst process. For a detailed discussion on the differences between ethylene-alpha

olefin copolymer plastomers according to the present invention and other polymers like VLDPE and LLDPE, which are also alpha-olefin copolymers, ~~it is referred~~ reference is made to US Patent No. 5,283,128.

Please replace paragraph [0029] with the following amended paragraph:

[0029] Ionomers are thermoplastic copolymers of ethylene with carboxy group containing monomers such as methacrylic or acrylic acid and ~~then~~ wherein the monomers are partially neutralized with a metal ion.

Please replace paragraph [0034] with the following amended paragraph:

[0034] The intermediate layers (which can also be termed "bonding layers" or "tie layers") include preferably ethylene ester copolymers, thus contributing to and improving the impact resistance of the film under cool and frozen conditions. Typical preferred examples of ethylene ester copolymers comprised in ~~the~~ at least one of the intermediate layers are ethylene vinyl acetate copolymers, ethylene methyl acrylate copolymers, ethylene ethyl acrylate copolymers, ethylene methyl methacrylate copolymers, ethylene butyl acrylate copolymers and terpolymers of said polymers. By terpolymers any combination of said mentioned polymers is meant as well as combinations of said polymers with other copolymers. An example for a terpolymer is an ethylene-acrylic ester-maleic anhydride copolymer, which is for example marketed by ATOFINA as LOTADER. Particularly preferred are intermediate layers comprised of ethylene vinyl acetate copolymers or ethylene methyl acrylate copolymers. Other possible examples of intermediate layers are chemically modified polyethylenes, polypropylenes and ethylene ester polymers like the BYNEL products of the company DUPONT. By chemically modified is meant e.g. acidly modified, for example acid modified polyethylene or acid modified polypropylene. Acids which may preferably be used for acid modification include maleic acid, itaconic acid and anhydrides thereof, acrylic acid and/or methacrylic acid.

Please replace paragraph [0038] with the following amended paragraph:

[0038] Various additives such as slip agents can be added to the heat sealable material of the sealing layer in minor amounts, for example between about 5 and 10%, sufficient to provide the machinability or other desired properties depending on the end use of the packaging material, and the particular equipment in which the packaging material of the present invention will be used. A particularly useful additive for the purpose of the present invention is FSU 105E from Schulman, including ~~a percentage~~ 5% of erucamide and also 10% of natural silica. In another preferred embodiment, the sealing layer(s) consist(s) of said polymers and thus contain(s) no further additives.

Please replace paragraph [0041] with the following amended paragraph:

[0041] In another preferred embodiment of the present invention the films consist of said at least one sealing layer, said at least one barrier layer and said at least ~~on one~~ one bonding layer. In another preferred embodiment, the barrier layer consists of polyvinylidene chloride polymers.

Please replace paragraph [0048] with the following amended paragraph:

[0048] 1. An outer heat sealing layer, comprising: 74% of an alpha-olefin plastomer copolymer, wherein the ~~—The~~ plastomer is Affinity PL-1880 from Dow having a melting point of 99°C, a density of 0.902 and a melt index of 1.0 g/10 min; 24% of an ~~ethyleneacetate~~ ethylene vinyl acetate copolymer, EVATANE 1003 VN4 material, having MFI 0.35 and 14% VA; and 2% of slip additives and polymer processing aids.

Please replace paragraph [0056] with the following amended paragraph:

[0056] 9. An outer heat sealing layer, comprising: 74% of an alpha-olefin plastomer copolymer, wherein the ~~The~~ plastomer is Affinity PL-1880 from Dow having a melting point of 99°C, a density of 0.902 and a melt index of 1.0 g/10 min; 24% of an ~~ethyleneacetate~~ ethylene vinyl acetate copolymer, EVATANE 1003 VN4 material, having MFI 0.35 and 14% VA; and 2% of slip additives and polymer processing aids.

Please replace paragraph [0070] with the following amended paragraph:

[0070] A first layer, comprising 83% of the ethylene octane plastomer copolymer AFFINITY PL 1880 (having a density of ~~0.902~~ 0.902) and 17% of the ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer EVATANE 1005 VG2 (having 5% VA and ~~MA~~ MFI 0.5).

Please replace paragraph [0076] with the following amended paragraph:

[0076] A seventh layer, comprising a blend of 89% LLDPE ethylene octene copolymer DOWLEX 5056E and 11 % AFFINITY EG81 50, which is ethylene octene polymer with plastomer properties. Both products are commercially available from DOW CHEMICAL Company. This seventh layer is used as a collapse layer, so that the total structure is 14- ~~layer~~ layers. The collapse structures are explained in US Patent 4,909,726 ~~attributed~~ assigned to Grumman Aerospace Corporation.

Please replace paragraph [0092] with the following amended paragraph:

[0092] Although the film of comparison example 2 is not as thick as film 1 according to the present invention, it is nevertheless surprising that the impact resistance more than doubled, which could not be expected by a mere increase in thickness from 54 microns to ~~67.5~~ 67.5 microns.